

1963

Sanitized - Approved For Release :  
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

18557

Aside from many practical benefits, it is an American tradition to aid men, women, and children of any nation suffering hunger or famine. It would be inconsistent with the position of this country historically toward the requirements of other people for food if our Government were to object to selling American wheat to nations behind the Iron Curtain, whose people would otherwise go hungry. In 1922 the American Relief Administration under Herbert Hoover fed 18 million people in the Soviet Union during a severe famine and is credited with saving the lives of 9 million Russians.

History tells us that nations engaged in mutually satisfactory trade relations are unlikely to fight each other. The proposed sale of wheat would help somewhat toward reducing our present adverse balance of payments. It is possible that a wheat agreement would not only save American taxpayers money, bring in revenue, and help stop the outflow of gold, but also accelerate a new movement for understanding and peace. Most of all, it would display to the world that America's free enterprise system can outproduce Russian communism.

Mr. President, on October 10, 1963, the Plain Dealer, one of the great newspapers in Ohio and the Nation, published an editorial entitled "Wheat Decision Is Wise," supporting the President in his decision to sell wheat to the Soviet Union and other Communist bloc nations. This excellent editorial calls for bipartisan support of the President's action in this matter and states that it would be a mistake to make an issue of it for political purposes. I commend this editorial to my colleagues and ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the Record at this point as part of my remarks.

There being no objection, the editorial was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

## WHEAT DECISION IS WISE

President Kennedy's decision to permit the sale of several million tons of wheat to Russia and other Communist nations is a good one.

Reasons cited by the President for his decision are convincing.

Among these are that the sale would reduce the balance-of-payments deficit, would help our gold reserve, and would provide income for Americans.

And, as he pointed out, the United States has always answered the appeals for food from those needing it.

Mr. Kennedy realistically noted that there was nothing to prevent friendly nations from buying American grain, converting it to flour and then selling it to the Communist bloc, so why halt direct sales?

Another important benefit will be the reduction in the wheat surplus, for the storage of which the taxpayers are now putting out large sums.

Many of the arguments cited by Mr. Kennedy in favor of allowing the sale had been used previously by the Plain Dealer in an editorial recommending that this decision be made.

As the President admitted in response to a question at his news conference, there will be some disagreement with the decision.

Republicans will be well advised, however, not to try to make an issue of the wheat sale for mere political purposes. The people

would be certain to see through such a maneuver and label it for exactly what it would be.

## COLUMBUS DAY

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, a man of great courage and vision sailed west through uncharted waters in 1492 in search of a new route to the Orient. Christopher Columbus did not find the treasure he sought, his heroic effort was unacknowledged, and he died in poverty with only an unfulfilled dream. He died, not knowing that the primitive shores on which his voyage ended were to provide the opportunity for the realization of the greatest and most noble dreams of all mankind.

We pause each year to honor this explorer extraordinary and to pay him the deserved tribute he never received during his lifetime. His spirit, his determination, and his devotion are now recognized as embodying those qualities we honor in the highest.

Columbus' dream was the first of many which, woven together and pursued, have built the strong and solid foundation upon which the cause of democracy stands today. And democracy has been realized and perpetuated by men who, like Columbus, have been undaunted in the pursuit of a vision.

The heritage of many nations and cultures, brought to this country by men in pursuit of the finest aspirations of mankind, is the base on which our country has developed. Indeed, the pre-eminent position of our country today must be largely attributed to the efforts of such men, and it is on them that we depend so heavily for our continued growth and development.

Italian-Americans are especially proud of their great ancestor. As their friends we join with them in praising Christopher Columbus and the qualities for which he stands. Columbus discovered America. His countrymen have helped make our Nation what it is today, bringing to it their talents, their character, and their rich heritage.

Here in the Senate on the anniversary of his great discovery I know that all join in saluting Christopher Columbus and the qualities which he represents so well.

A BILL TO CLARIFY AND PROTECT  
THE RIGHT OF THE PUBLIC TO  
INFORMATION—COSPONSOR

Mr. ERVIN. Mr. President, Thomas Jefferson, in his inaugural address of 1801, listed "the diffusion of information and the arraignment of all abuses at the bar of public reason" as one of those essential principles of American Government which should form the creed of our political faith, and the touchstone by which to try the services of those we trust.

The right of the public and press to government information is a subject which has been studied by committees of Congress for several years. The related right of Congress, moreover, as agent of the people to acquire information from the executive branch has

caused problems which have been with this body since the early days of our Republic. Although they frequently acquire political overtones, the issues in this area are continuing and many faceted. They are, apparently, problems which our democratic bureaucracy is heir to, for regardless of the party in power, they infect our government like a plague that will, if unchecked, weaken and eventually destroy that doctrine of separation of powers upon which this government was founded.

S. 1666, introduced by the distinguished junior Senator from Missouri (Mr. Long) would amend the Administrative Procedure Act to clarify and protect the right of the public to information.

By describing precisely the only kinds of information which can be exempted from disclosure, and by providing a recourse for the citizen when agencies disobey the mandate of Congress, this measure will provide further guarantees for the citizen's fundamental right to know what his government is doing.

The Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights has long been interested in problems concerning secrecy in government. Legislation similar to S. 1666 was introduced by the late Senator Hennings in the 85th and 86th Congresses and was the subject of hearings and studies by the subcommittee.

See S. 2148, 85th Congress, hearing, April 16, 1958; and appendix material, printed. Also committee print: "A Bill To Amend the Public Information Section of the Administrative Procedure Act," Reports of Executive Departments and Agencies and Views of National, State and Local Press Associations, on S. 2149, Also S. 186, 86th Congress, hearing, April 17, 1959, printed; reported from subcommittee as clean bill, S. 2780. Also committee print: "Withholding of Information From the Public and Press; A Survey of Federal Departments and Agencies, 1960"; hearing, on S. 921 and the "Powers of the President to Withhold Information From the Congress," March 6, 1959, printed.

During the 85th Congress, 2d session, the subcommittee studied and the Congress enacted, another measure, designed to prevent officials from relying on an innocuous "housekeeping statute" as authority to withhold information. But experience has shown that administrative officials have many weapons in their arsenal, many of them in the form of statutory authority granted by Congress for specific purposes, but broadly interpreted in the executive branch.

It is clear from the legislative history of the Administrative Procedure Act of 1946 that Congress never intended that the public information section of the act should be used as a device for withholding information from the public. Rather, it was drafted to insure that the public could obtain information about the operations and procedures of government agencies.

Despite the stated intent of Congress, surveys have shown that this section has been cited again and again as authority for restricting availability of information. The results of three of these sur-